

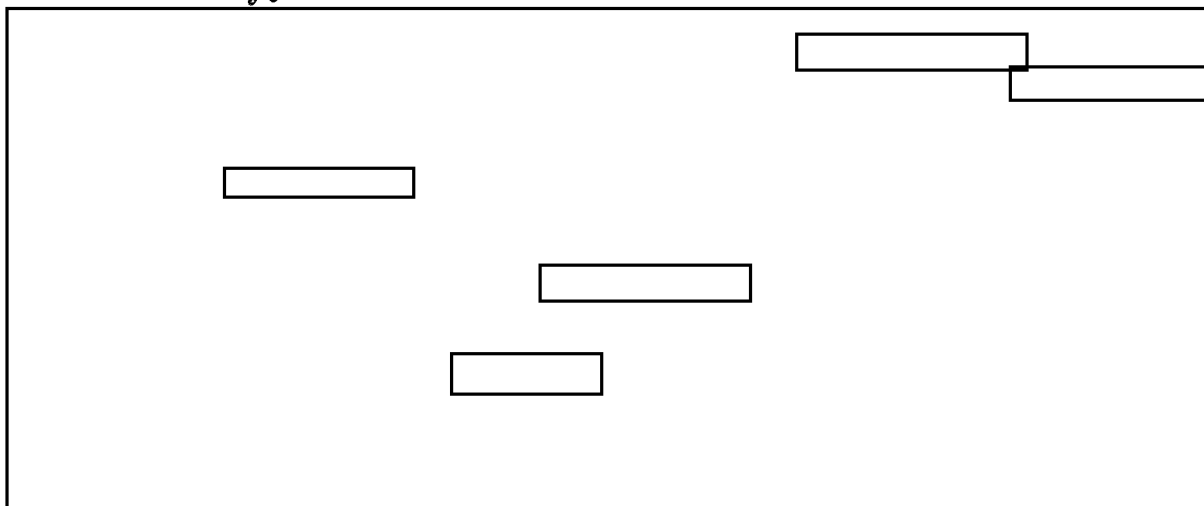
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13 April 1950

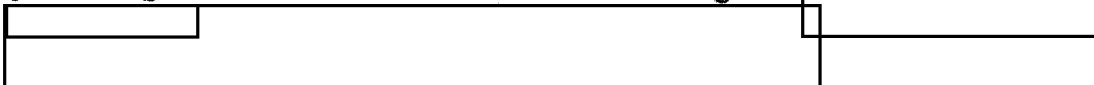
MEMORANDUM FOR: AD SO

SUBJECT: Holohan Case

1. Attached hereto is a clipping from the Corriere Della Sera, and a literal translation, giving what purports to be a solution of the Holohan case. As you know, we have been following this case since the original investigation, which was, incidentally, in most respects unsatisfactory.



4. We have no active part in this case any longer, unless we can be of assistance or unless we receive further information which we will pass on to you. We would, however, appreciate what information you can give us on the outcome of these charges.



LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel  
Legal Staff

Attachments: Newspaper Clipping  
Translation of Clipping

LRH/ml1

cc: Subject  
Chrono

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CORRIERE DELLA SERAMarch 30, 1950

THE TWO OF SPADES CAME OUT OF THE PACK AND NAMED  
THE EXECUTIONER FOR AN ATROCIOUS MURDER

How the Head of an American Mission Parachuted  
into Piemonte was Treacherously Killed by a  
Subordinate — After Five Years of Investigation,  
the Truth.

Only now is light dawning on a dark crime which matured in the fiery days of the resistance against the Nazi-Fascists, in a zone in which partisan warfare was particularly bitter. This is the pre-meditated killing, for reasons probably not entirely of loot, of an American officer, Major William Holohan, whose disappearance had, up to now, been rapped up in the deepest mystery. The Allied authorities had vainly carried out investigations for many months with great enthusiasm and tenacity after the liberation; the investigations came up against and broke down before an impenetrable barrier of silence erected by the solidarity of the guilty ones, of their accomplices, and supporters. Finally, some indiscretion, which trickled into the circles frequented by people involved in this criminal affair, was brought to the attention of the Carabinieri and made possible the establishment of the truth.

Towards the middle of 1944, an American Mission was sent, well equipped and briefed, into the zone of the Mottarone, where several parties and formations were active. In the roles of the Allied secret information services, this Mission, under the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS), was described as follows: Chrysler 2677 R.S.T., U. S. Army, Company D. It was composed of three persons — Major Holohan, Lt. Aldo Icardi, and Sgt. Carlo Lodolce — all three of them U. S. citizens. An airplane carried them into the skies of Piemonte and they dropped by parachute at the previously arranged locality of Coiro Monte. Other parachutes conveyed their equipment — radios and miscellaneous material. The Mission established itself under the protection of a partisan detachment in villa Castelnuovo in the village of Alzo, where it remained understood until the 6th of December carrying out an extended and active work, both of intelligence and of assistance to the partisans of the zone, whose airborne supplies it arranged.

These supplies, however, were not distributed in sufficient quantities to satisfy the requests of the various formations. Above all, the Communist formations were dissatisfied with the principles followed by the head of the Mission in the supply of weapons. In fact, some one reported that Major Holohan had refused an offer of 20 million lire made to him by a commander of a Communist formation for certain privileges and a supply of war material, exclaiming, "I will never favor the Communists at the expense of other partisan formations." The same people who reported this episode added that in their opinion the words then pronounced by the head of the American Mission marked his death warrant.

The ideas of Major Holohan were not shared by the other two members of the Mission. It is alleged that Lt. Icardi had been heard to say to a partisan chief, "I am of the opinion that the Major should be liquidated. I would then become Chief of Mission and we could do what we want."

Meanwhile two partisans had attached themselves to the American Mission to provide the necessary liaison with the fighting formations. These were Giuseppe Manini of PetenESCO (Novara) and Gualtiero Tozzini from Corcogno (Novara). According to what the Carabinieri are reported to have ascertained at the end of a very laborious inquiry, the five men, that is, Holohan, Icardi, Lodolce, Manini, and Tozzini, were dining on the 6th of December 1944, in a room on the ground floor of villa Castelnuovo. After dinner the Major retired to rest in a room on the floor above, getting into his sleeping bag. The other four, however, to pass the time, began a game of cards. At a certain point, Lt. Icardi briskly interrupted the game, saying, with sudden decision, that the time had come to "bump off" the Major. No reaction came from the others, who showed themselves substantially in agreement. It was necessary, however, that one of the four should actually carry out the crime. No one volunteered for the job of executioner. Lt. Icardi himself ended the delay with this proposal: That the Major should be killed by whoever drew the lowest card from the pack remaining on the table. Chance designated Sgt. Lodolce, who drew the two of spades. He made no objection. The Sgt., although he was already armed, made Manini give him his pistol — a Beretta 9 mm — and then went up to the next floor, followed by the other three. However, he entered alone into the room in which the Major was sleeping. Two sharp reports were heard. The echoes had hardly ceased when Icardi and Manini and Tozzini entered the execution chamber. Major Holohan, hit in the head by both shots fired by Lodolce, had died without even having time to say "Mother".

The body, still in the sleeping bag, was tied by a long cord together with a pack, a magazine rifle with five rounds in it, a pistol and a pair of boots - all belonging to the Major. Lt. Icardi, however, took care to remove from the pack a package containing bank notes for a sum reputed to be six million, the code book for arranging the drops, and other documents. The ghastly burden was carried to the shores of the lake not far from villa Castalnuovo. A large stone was attached to the end of the cord and the body was then placed in a boat, in which Manini and Tozzini climbed according to the results of the inquiry. The boat was slowly rowed to about 150 yards from the shore. There was a splash. The waters of the lake showed some circles, and then came again to rest. A man who was a nuisance had been eliminated without leaving any trace.

A few rounds of machine gun shots were fired, to give the impression to any one who might hear, that a fight was going on. Then Manini took Lt. Icardi in the boat as far as Pella, together with the radio transmitters and other material belonging to the Mission. Lodolce and Tozzini took other roads.

Subsequently the rumor was spread that Holohan had been removed by Nazi-Fascists after a fire fight. But his disappearance appeared convincing to no one -- much less to the Allied authorities. The suspicion was even aroused that the Major had disappeared with the funds of the Mission. His family from America, without news, urged intensification of the inquiries. The diligent investigations were carried out by the Criminal Investigation Department of the U. S. Troops in Trieste without the least result. Five more years were to pass before the truth finally came out. But the hour of justice has arrived.

FERRUCCIO LANFRANCHI